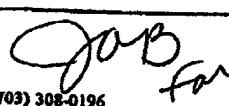


INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US98/04398

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(6) : B01L 3/00, 11/00, 9/00; B01J 8/18; C12N 15/00 US CL : 422/102, 103, 104, 131, 135, 138, 140, 305; 935/88 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 422/102, 103, 104, 131, 135, 138, 140, 305; 935/88		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Extra Sheet.		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,503,805 A (SUGARMAN et al.) 02 April 1996, see entire document.	1-25
Y,P	US 5,665,975 A (KEDAR et al.) 09 September 1997, see entire document.	1-25
Y,P	US 5,609,826 A (CARGILL et al.) 11 March 1997, see entire document.	1-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date "C" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reasons (as specified) "D" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "E" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"Z" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 MAY 1998	Date of mailing of the international search report 16 JUL 1998	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  JOYCE TUNG Telephone No. (703) 308-0196	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*

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